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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-22 January 1986

LC/NAIROBI.

Report on the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE)

- The Present Situation -

1. The Inaugural Meeting of the Governing Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy, convened by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa under Article 12, paragraph 6, of the Constitution of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy, was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 14 May 1982.

Official Pronouncement of the Establishment of the Centre and of the Council

2. Under this item, the Chairman of the Meeting solemnly pronounced the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy officially established on 13 May 1982. The Constitution was in force for all the signatory States namely: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinee, Gabon, Guinee, the Ivory Coast, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Uganda and Zaire.

3. The Chairman also announced the official establishment of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy by recalling its composition as provided for in Article 7, paragraph 2, of the Centre's Constitution.

4. The representatives of Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Guinee, the Ivory Coast, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Niger and Uganda took the floor. They hailed the establishment of the Centre, stated the unqualified support of their respective Governments to ensure the smooth running of the Centre and stressed the important role the Centre would have to play in research, development and the utilization of the African continent's new and renewable sources of energy.

5. The participants expressed the hope that the Centre would not yet be another organization but rather an operational institution dedicated to the conquest of technology for development, training of African manpower and the promotion of co-operation in solar, wind and biomass energy in order to lessen the dependence of African countries on conventional sources of energy which were heavy burdens on their economies.

6. They stressed the importance of the Centre's objectives, referring specifically to the assistance it would give the member States in basic research, strengthening the existing national and subregional centres, the establishment of new centres and the co-ordinating of research and development activities in the area of the utilization of solar energy in Africa.

7. The establishment of the Centre was welcomed as being in line with the objectives of the Energy Chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action and as a follow-up to the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held at Nairobi in August 1981.

Other Matters Dealt with by the Inaugural Meeting of the Council

8. The Inaugural Meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy dealt with the other matters that were on the Agenda for the Meeting. These are:

(a) The consideration of the document on the general principles and policies governing the activities of the Centre,

(b) consideration of the document on the annual and special contributions to paid by the member States of the Centre,

(c) consideration of the draft work programme and budget of the Centre,

(d) consideration of job descriptions, vacancy announcements and procedure for selecting the core staff of the Centre,

(e) election of members of the Executive Board of the Centre,

(f) selection of the location of the Headquarters of the Centre.

Election of the Members of the Executive Board of the Centre

9. According to the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the Constitution the Board was established comprising of the following members:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ex-officio Chairman of the Board),

(b) One-third of the member States of the Centre,

(c) The Executive Director of the Centre,

(d) The Director of National and Subregional Centre for Solar Energy.

10. Taking into account the fact that the number of member States for the Centre were 17 at the time of the Meeting, the Council decided that the Board should consist of six member States. After consideration of the current distribution of the member States of the Centre it was decided to elect the following member States as members of the Executive Board:

West Africa:	Mali and Nigeria
North Africa:	the Sudan
Eastern and Southern Africa:	Uganda
Central Africa:	Gabon and Burundi

11. The Board decided that as the number of signatory member States increased, representation on the Executive Board would be reviewed subsequently.

Selection of the location of the Headquarters of the Centre

12. The Governing Council failed to reach a consensus on the subject and referred the matter to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council which was to be organized in six months to decide on the selection of the location of the Headquarters of the Centre. At the time of deferring this matter to the meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting there were four countries which offered to host the Centre. These are: Burundi, Djibouti, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sudan.

13. The Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy was held from 7 to 10 January 1983. The Meeting which was convened specifically to decide the host country for the Centre, decided, after failing to reach an agreement on the host country on the following:

"(a) Consultation should be held at the highest level between the three countries, namely, Burundi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan in order to resolve the deadlock on the choice of the host country;*

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA was requested to assist the three member States in their consultations;

(c) The three member States communicate the results of their consultations to the ECA secretariat within three months and the secretariat of ECA would, in consultations with the Chairman of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, make arrangements to convene another meeting of the Council to consider the results of the consultations and to resolve the issue of the location;

(d) Should the result of the consultations proved to be negative the Council would be left with no alternative but to resolve the issue by accepting other candidatures and taking a vote to select the host country."

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* The countries contesting to host ARSCE were Burundi, Djibouti, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan. During the Extraordinary Meeting Djibouti and Sudan supported Burundi; but Sudan further stated that it still remained candidate if Burundi was not chosen. During 1983 ECA received an application from Burkina Faso to host the Centre.

14. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa has been monitoring the negotiations that have been going on between the countries and until the Meeting of ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1985 the situation regarding the hosting of the Centre was still without a solution.

15. In April 1983 the ECA Conference of Ministers set-up an Ad Hoc Committee to look into the evaluation and harmonization of the activities of the African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU. In the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 477 (XVIII) on ECA/OAU sponsored institutions (document No. E/ECA/CM.11/17/Add.1), the Committee recommended three options for the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy. First option was that the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy should be merged with African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT): the cost of which would depend on whether the host Government could provide the extra facilities that would be required; the second option was to place the Centre close to the Centre régionale d'energie solaire (CRES) at Bamako: the cost of which would depend on what facilities were provided by the host Government and the economy of proximity what is supposed to be a well-established and internationally-supported subregional centre; the third option was the Centre to be merged with the existing CRES at Bamako. But since CRES was not an ECA-sponsored institution, this would depend on consultations and negotiations with the founding body of CRES and the host Government.

16. However, in resolution 550 (XX) "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 477 (XVIII) on ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions", the Conference of Ministers recommended that the decisions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the co-ordination of activities of merger of institutions should not affect the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy. This decision was taken on the basis of some member States objecting to the inclusion of ARCSE in the above-mentioned decision. Consequently, the situation with regard to the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy is not affected by the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee.

17. In July 1985 the ECA secretariat received new information in the form of a note verbale from the Embassy of Burundi to Socialist Ethiopia stating that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was ready to support the candidature of Burundi to host African Regional Centre for Solar Energy. This note verbale was accompanied by a copy of a note verbale from the Popular Bureau of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the Ministry of External Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of Burundi stating that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was ready to support the candidature of Burundi to host the Headquarters of African Regional Centre for Solar Energy.

18. This being the case, and taking into account the fact that Sudan and Djibouti had already indicated their support for Burundi to host the Centre, it was deemed necessary to convene a second extraordinary meeting of the Governing Council to take a decision on the location of the Centre.

19. This meeting therefore is convened specifically to look at the question of the location of the Headquarters of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 20-21 January 1986

LC/NAIROBI

REPORT

A. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The extraordinary meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20-21 January 1986.

2. The meeting, being the continuation of the Extraordinary meeting which took place from 10 to 12 January 1983 in Addis Ababa was opened by the Chairman of the meeting H.E. Mr. Isidore Nyaboya, Minister of Public Work, Energy and Mines of the Republic of Burundi.

3. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following members of the Council:

Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zaire and Zambia.

4. Representatives of Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, France, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania attended the meeting in an observer capacity.

5. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Officer-in-Charge of the Economic Commission for Africa, also attended the meeting, representing the Executive Secretary in his official capacity as a member of the Council and as ex-officio Chairman of the Executive Board.

6. The representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity also attended the meeting as a member of the Council.

B. AGENDA

The Second Extraordinary meeting of the Council of ARCSE adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Headquarters of the Centre
   (i) Consideration of the report presented by the ECA secretariat concerning the location of the headquarters of the Centre;

   (ii) Selection of the location of the Centre.

5. Any other business
6. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting
7. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

7. In his opening statement the Chairman of the Council recapitulated the development of the ARCSE since the inaugural meeting of the Council which was held from May 12-14, 1982.

8. He said that although that meeting dealt with the other matters of agenda including work programme, budget, procedures for recruitment of staff and appointment of Executive Board, it did not settle the matter dealing with the location of the headquarters of the Centre. This issue was deferred to an extraordinary meeting of the Council which took place from 10-12 January 1983, during which consultations between the member States vying to host the Centre did not bear fruit.

9. The Chairman further stated that Burundi and Libya had consulted and the outcome of the consultations were that Libya had decided to support Burundi to host the Centre. After that he as chairman of the Governing Council took the initiative to contact the ECA secretariat to convene this extraordinary meeting assembled here in Addis Ababa. The Chairman expressed the hope that this meeting would solve the problem of the location of the Centre so that work on the making the Centre operation should start as soon as possible.

10. In his welcome address the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA Mr. M. Tchouta-Moussa expressed delight in being able to participate in the meeting and hoped that the delegates would have fruitful deliberations during the course of the meeting.

11. He also recounted the history of the Centre since its establishment in May 1984 and the events preceeding the Inaugural meeting of the Governing Council. He highlighted the problems of overdependence on conventional sources of energy by African member States. He then said that the establishment of ARCSE is expected to play a major role in alleviating some of the energy problems existing in African member States which have a significant potential in new and renewable sources of energy and are in a particularly good position to develop and utilize them.

12. He also reiterated that for the most African countries non-commercial sector is the largest consumer of energy and hence the one with the most far reaching consequences from conservation point of view, since it is in this sector where the the bulk of wood and wood products are used, both in the rural and urban areas. Widespread and uncontrolled use of wood and wood products has lead to a large scale destruction of forests turning them to deserts or near desert conditions, characterised by soil erosion which in turn causes adverse effects on water tables in the African areas leading to changes in climatic conditions in the area or region. The overall result is large reduction in agricultural production capacity of the given area. He expressed a hope that ARCSE would address these issues as soon as it becomes operational. In conclusion, he pledged ECA assistance in the launching of the Centre so it can live up to the high hopes that the member States placed in the establishment of the Centre.

Election of Officers

13. Since that was the Extraordinary meeting of the Council, the Bureau consisting of Burundi, Djibouti, and Burkina Faso as President, Vice-President and Rapporteur respectively would continue in the office until the next ordinary meeting of the Council. However, as the Rapporteur of the meeting was not present the Council appointed Niger to act as a Rapporteur to the meeting.

Headquarters of the Centre

(a) Consideration of the Report presented by the ECA secretariat, concerning the location of the Headquarters of the Centre (E/ECA/NRD/E/6).

14. A representative of the secretariat introduced the item. He recalled the events that followed the Inaugural Meeting and the convening of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. He said that at the time of Extraordinary meeting of the Council, in January 1983, four member States namely, Burundi, Djibouti, Libyan Arab Jamahiria and the Sudan were the candidates for hosting the Centre. During the meeting, Sudan and Djibouti supported the candidature of Burundi.

15. The Council then directed that two countries: Burundi and Libyan Arab Jamahiria should hold the consultations outside the meeting with the view to reaching an agreement, But when the agreement was not reached the Council made the following decisions:

(a) Consultations should be held at the highest level between the three countries, namely: Burundi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan in order to resolve the deadlock of the choice of the host country;

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA was requested to assist the three member States in their consultations;

(c) The three member States communicate the results of their consultations to the ECA secretariat within three months and the secretariat of ECA would, in consultation with the Chairman of this Extraordinary meeting of the Council, make arrangements to convene another meeting of the Council to consider the results of the consultation and to resolve the issue of the location:

(d) Should the results of the consultations prove to be negative the Council would be left with no alternative but to resolve the issue by accepting other candidatures and taking a vote to select the host country.

16. During the course of 1983 ECA secretariat received one further candidate, that is Burkina Faso, to host the Centre.

17. In June 1985 that the ECA secretariat received new information from the Embassy of Burundi to Socialist Ethiopia stating that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had decided to support the candidature of Burundi to host ARCSE.

18. On the receipt of this information the ECA Executive Secretary consulted the Chairman of ARCSE and agreed to convene this Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council from 20-22 January 1986 to specifically look at the question of the location of the Headquarters. In conclusion the representative of ECA added that in its communications to the ECA secretariat the Sudan wished it to be known that it is still interested to host the Centre.

(b) Selection of the location of the Centre

19. During the discussion which followed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that they supported candidature of Burundi to host the Centre and expressed the hope that the Centre will take off as soon as practicable, as too much time had been lost already. However, he expressed his dissapointment that Arabic was not included as one of the working languages of the meetings which took place in the secretariat. He further expressed his hope that such situation would be rectified in the future.

20. The representative of the Sudan also joined the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in supporting the candidature of Burundi to host the Centre. He said although the Sudan was a candidate, in the interest of African co-operation and solidarity the Sudan was happy to support Burundi.

21. After the two interventions from the representatives of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan, the Council supported the candidature of Burundi by unanimous acclamation.

22. The representative of Burundi thanked all the member States for the support, priviledge and honour accorded to Burundi to host ARCSE. He stated that Burundi would do everything in its power to ensure the confidence put in Burundi will be upheld and that the Government of Burundi will live up to the expectations of the host country. He expressed confidence that Burundi will receive every co-operation from member States in its work to make the ARCSE achieve its objectives and functions.

Any other business

(a) Membership and State of Contribution

23. Under any other business a representative of the secretariat introduced a paper dealing with the membership of ARCSE and the state of contributions to the budget as of January 1, 1986. He explained the basis on which the contributions were received from only two countries, that is: Gabon and another unknown country had made their contributions. The table indicating the membership of the Centre and levels of contribution is annexed to this report.

24. Following the introduction of the document the Chairman and the Deputy Executive Secretary appealed to the member States to make their contributions promptly in order to launch the Centre.

(b) Launching of the Centre

25. The Council discussed the steps leading to the launching of the Centre and decided on the following:

(i) to hold the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 19-20 June 1986 (dates to be confirmed after consultations between the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of ECA), in Bujumbura, to discuss questions of the work programme, budget of the Centre, appointment of the core staff and the launching of the Centre;

(ii) ECA should before the end of January 1986 send to each member State the advertisements and job descriptions of the core posts of the Centre (Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and the Heads of six Units), with a view to receiving application from the candidates of the member States by the end of June 1986. ECA secretariat then should present the shortlisted candidates to the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council;

(iii) ECA to continue to sensitize non-member States of ARCSE with the view to making them to join the Centre in persuance of the Resolution 550(XX) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers;

(iv) Subject to the decisions at the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council the suggestion has been made that the launching of the Centre will be on 1 October 1986. In this regard, all the member States are invited to make their contribution to the budget of the Centre before 1 October 1986. Contributions should be deposited to the following account and address:

UNECA Account number 015-001-601
Chemical Bank, United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017 (USA)

(in case of the direct deposit to the account the Executive Secretary of ECA should be informed);

(vi) Council appointed two new members to the Executive Board: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the Northern subregion and Zambia for the Eastern and Southern African subregion. The composition of the Executive Board will now be as follows:

West Africa: Mali and Nigeria,

North Africa: Sudan and Libyan arab Jamahiriya,

Eastern and Southern Africa: Uganda and Zambia,

Central Africa: Gabon and Burundi.

Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting

26. After the draft report submitted to the meeting by the Rapporteur had been considered and amended the final report was adopted.

Closure of the meeting

27. After the Chairman thanked the delegates for their co-operation and the positive manner in which they contributed to the meeting he declared the Second Extraordinary meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy closed.